

Auto Menace – A long term issue requiring appropriate actions by authorities.

There are numerous complaints against auto rickshaws in Bangalore and elsewhere such as Tampered meters, Extra charges, refusal to ply, 1.5 and 2 times (both during day/night), luggage charges etc. The following illustration shows as to why Auto rickshaws mis behave and get away too.

The reasons that can be attributed are:

1. Easy earnings – undisclosed as there is no tax compliance
2. Lack of enforcements in case of complaints
3. Hand in glove operations with several entities
4. Non Traceability of Drivers – Many drivers rent the autos on per shift cost basis
5. Non availability of On spot verifications and redressals
6. Consumer and passenger apathies and complacencies
7. Cartelised business owned by some financiers

Cost per KM of Auto rickshaw		The working is to understand the following: <div>1. Refusal to ply</div> <div>2. Over charging</div> <div>3. Non traceability</div> <div>4. Extra costs incurred due to payments made to various others viz, License, RTO, POLICE, Financiers etc</div> <div>5. Others (accidents, Insurance, repairs etc)</div> <div>6. To Owners per shift basis (Ave. 200/shift)</div>		
Ave. CNG cost	40.00			
Ave. Mileage/litre	30.00			
Ave. Cost/KM	1.33			
Wear and Tear/km	0.27			
Others Expense /km	0.30			
Net cost/KM	1.90			
Descriptions	Min	Max	Ave /day	Ave/Month
Ave. KM / day	100.00	200.00	150.00	
Ave. KM / month	2,500.00	5,000.00		3,750.00
Cost/KM	13.00	13.00		
Total Earnings@Rs.13/km	1,300.00	2,600.00	1,950.00	48,750.00
Total Fuel/day	190.00	380.00	285.00	
Total Fuel/month	4,750.00	9,500.00	7,125.00	7,125.00
Earnings				
Gross earnings/month	32,500.00	65,000.00	48,750.00	An average earnings of Rs.36,625/month without tax is something that makes the drivers reckless in their acts. Whereas, any other employed person/s shells appropriate tax.
Expenses / Month				
Fuel & others	4,750.00	9,500.00	7,125.00	
Veh. Finance	5,000.00	5,000.00		
Net earnings/month	22,750.00	50,500.00	36,625.00	
Ave earnings/day	910.00	2,020.00	1,465.00	
Tax free earnings				
Earnings/PA	,73,000.00	6,06,000.00	4,39,500.00	
<div>❖ The above illustration is for 25 days/month working basis</div> <div>❖ 1.5 times (10pm to 6am) not calculated</div> <div>❖ Asking extra, rigged meters, Luggage etc not considered</div>				

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The above illustration demonstrates the easy money, making drivers to indulge in all types of mal-practices. An amount of Rs.900 to Rs.2000 / day for drivers who rent autos is a huge sum and it is earned based on individual needs, thereby undetectable in many cases.

What can be the remedy?

1. Introduction of mandatory **Track & Trace systems (GPS/GPRS)** wherein the vehicle and passenger are monitored.
2. **Voice based control system** – A stand alone device to be compulsorily mounted in each vehicle - linked to Police command centres. To be activated as and when an Auto or Cab is hired. In this method, the moment an auto/cab is hired, the device is linked to command center and registered passenger by voice command their Time of boarding, boarding point and destination duly confirmed by Driver. This will prevent unwarranted demands by some drivers and Trackable.
3. **Driver logging – Aadhaar or equivalent checksum** to be linked to Autos / Cabs driven by any driver – while using a particular vehicle. This is to ensure only trained and licensed drivers are permitted to drive.
4. All cash payments to be stopped and should be **transferred to digital modes**. Alternately, it can be **pass /coupon based system**, wherein one can buy monthly or day based cards to be used for payments and top ups.
5. Only authority approved vehicles to ply – all unauthorised or unlicensed vehicles must be seized under judiciary orders. **Suitable ID shall be affixed on every authorised vehicle.**
6. 24/7/365 days live monitoring must be made and **cost to be paid to police department on per KM basis** to ensure revenue based solution for the project to succeed.
7. All earnings of either owned or rented vehicles **must be brought under tax net**. This will eliminate fictitious ownerships and tax avoidance by various entities, who exploit the situations currently prevailing.

There are quite a few laws and rules in practice but they appear to be for book sake and have no impact on erring individuals. After all, this is a paid service and all earnings are taxable, why should Government ignore **this segment??**

Are you listening???